

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 15 and 17-23 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 1-14 and 16, and add new claims 24-29 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A load distribution method adapted-by in a client-server system ~~1100 comprising~~ including a plurality of clients and a server cluster, said server cluster including a plurality of servers each used for processing requests made by said clients and allows a number of said servers to be changed dynamically, comprising the steps of:  
detecting, by one of clients, a change of the number of servers forming  
composing said server cluster by one of the clients;  
setting, by said one client, an allocation of requests transmissible out to a  
newly added server at an amount [[value]] smaller than [[that]] amounts set for each  
of the remaining servers in the server cluster by said one client, right after detecting  
an increase in the number of servers; [[and]]  
transmitting out requests to said servers on the basis of said set allocation from  
said one client to the server cluster, if said increase in the number of servers is  
detected; and  
receiving, by said one client, responses to the requests from said servers.
2. (Currently Amended) A load distribution method according to claim 1, further  
comprising a step of increasing, by said one client, wherein each of said clients sets  
said amount of allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server at a  
value increasing with the lapse of time since said newly added server is detected.
3. (Currently Amended) A load distribution method according to claim 1, wherein said  
detection of an increase in said number of said servers is used as a trigger of each of  
said clients to set said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added  
server at said amount smaller than said amounts a value small in comparison with that  
set for each of said [[other]] remaining servers.

4. (Currently Amended) A load distribution method according to claim 1, ~~wherein each of said clients~~ further comprising the steps of:  
acquiring, by said one client, acquires information on a performance of said newly added server, if said newly added server is detected; and  
setting, by said one client, [[sets]] said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server on the basis of said acquired information.
5. (Currently Amended) A load distribution method according to claim 1, ~~wherein each of said clients~~ further comprising the steps of:  
acquires acquiring performance information ~~on a state~~ of said newly added server; and  
[[sets]] setting, by said one client, said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server on the basis of said acquired information.
6. (Currently Amended) A load distribution method according to claim 5, wherein said performance information ~~on a state~~ of said newly added server includes at least one of a cache hit rate, a cache utilization ratio ~~[[or]]~~ and a ~~[[the]]~~ number of requests each waiting for a processing turn, and  
said amounts of allocation of requests set for the servers including said newly added server are set based upon said at least one of a cache hit rate, a cache utilization ratio and a number of requests each waiting for a processing turn.
7. (Currently Amended) A load distribution method according to claim 1 wherein:  
said client-server system has a management server for managing the number of servers composing said server cluster; and  
a notice received from said management server as a notice of an increase in said number of said servers is used as a trigger of each of said clients to set said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server at said amount smaller than said amounts a ~~value small in comparison with that~~ set for each of said ~~[[other]]~~ remaining servers.
8. (Currently Amended) A load distribution method according to claim 1, wherein~~[[:]]~~  
said client-server system has a management server ~~[[for]],~~ and the method further comprising the steps of:

acquiring, by said one client, information on a performance of each of said servers from the management server; and ~~each of said clients: acquires said information on a performance of each of said servers;~~

~~[[sets]]~~ setting, by said one client, said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server on the basis of said acquired information.

9. (Currently Amended) A load distribution method according to claim 1, ~~wherein each of said clients sets~~ further comprising a step of:

setting, by said one client, said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server by setting ~~[[the]]~~ a number of connections for communications with said servers.

10. (Currently Amended) A load distribution method according to claim 1, ~~wherein each of said clients sets~~ further comprising a step of:

setting, by said one client, an allocation of requests transmissible out to each of said servers by changing quotas each set for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of requests transmissible out to said individual server.

11. (Currently Amended) A load distribution method according to claim 10, wherein~~[[:]]~~ said client-server system has storage apparatus connected to said servers; ~~each of said servers holds, and the method further comprising the steps of:~~

holding, by said servers, directory information indicating storage locations of files stored in said storage apparatus; and

setting, by said one client, ~~each of said clients sets~~ said allocation of requests transmissible out to each of said servers by changing quotas each provided for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of said directory information stored in said individual server where said allotment of said directory information storable in said individual server represents an allotment of requests transmissible out to said individual server.

12. (Currently Amended) A client-server system ~~including, comprising:~~

a plurality of clients; and

a server cluster, ~~said server cluster including~~ which is formed by a plurality of servers each used for processing requests made by said clients ~~sends and allows the~~

~~number of said servers to be changed dynamically, wherein~~ each of said clients comprising includes:

a server-count detection unit which detects a number of the servers included in said server cluster;

an allocation ~~[[load-]]~~ setting unit for setting which sets an allocation of requests transmissible out to a newly added server as an amount smaller than amounts set for the each of said remaining servers, if said server-count detection unit detects an increase in the number of servers;

~~a server-count detection unit for detecting the number of servers composing said server cluster; and~~

a request ~~[[load]]~~ distribution unit which transmits ~~for transmitting~~ out requests to each of said servers on the basis of the allocations ~~[[each]]~~ set by said allocation ~~[[load-]]~~ setting unit, and

a receiving unit which receives responses to said requests from said servers ~~wherein right after the detection of an increase in said number of servers by said server-count detection unit, said load-setting unit sets an allocation of requests transmissible out to a newly added server at a value smaller than that set for each of the remaining servers in the server cluster.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A client-server system according to claim 12, wherein:

each of said clients has an allotment-holding unit for holding an allotment set for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of requests transmissible out to said individual server; and

said allocation ~~[[load-]]~~ setting unit sets an allocation of requests transmissible out to each of said servers by changing quotas each set for every individual one of said servers as said allotment of requests transmissible out to said individual server.

14. (Currently Amended) A client-server system according to claim 13, ~~said client-server system~~ further comprising storage apparatus connected to said servers,

wherein each of said servers is provided with a directory-information-holding unit for holding directory information indicating storage locations of files stored in said storage apparatus;

said clients are provided with a management server for holding quotas each provided for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of said directory

information storable in said individual server; and

said allocation ~~[[load-]]~~setting unit sets said allocation of requests transmissible out to each of said servers by changing said quotas each provided for every individual one of said servers as an allotment of said directory information stored in said individual server.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A load distribution method according to claim 2, wherein ~~each of said clients sets~~ the step of setting said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server ~~by~~ involves setting ~~[[the]]~~a number of connections for communications with said servers.

17-23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) A client-server system according to claim 12, further comprising a management server for managing the number of servers;

wherein the clients receives a notice from said management server as a notice of an increase in said number of said servers, said notice is used as a trigger by each of said clients to set said allocation of requests transmissible out to said newly added server at said amount smaller than the amounts set for the remaining servers.

25. (New) A client-server system according to claim 12, wherein each of the clients further includes an acquiring unit which acquires performance information of the servers, the information related to performance of request processing, and the performance information is used by the allocating setting unit.

26. (New) A client-server system according to claim 25, wherein the servers includes a cache which temporarily stores data, the performance information includes performance of the cache including at least one of a cache hit rate, a cache utilization ratio, and a number of requests each waiting for a processing turn, and said amount of allocation of requests for the servers including said newly added server is set, by the allocating setting unit, on the basis of said at least one of a

cache hit rate, a cache utilization ratio, and a number of requests each waiting for a processing turn.

27. (New) A client computer to be coupled to plurality of servers which form into a server cluster, comprising:

a detecting unit which detects an increase in a number of servers of the server cluster;

a setting unit which sets an amount of requests to be sent to a new added sever from the client computer smaller than amounts of requests to be sent to the remaining severs from the client computer, if the new added sever is detected;

a transmitting unit which transmits the requests set by the setting unit to the servers including the new added server; and

a receiving unit which receives responses to the requests from the servers.

28. (New) A client computer according to claim 27, wherein the setting unit further changes said amount of the requests to be sent to the new added server based upon a time period since the new added server is detected till a current time point.

29. (New) A client computer according to claim 27, further comprising an acquiring unit which acquires performance information of the servers,

wherein the servers includes a cache memory for temporarily storing data when executing the requests,

the acquiring unit acquires performance information of the cache memory including at least one of a cache bit rate, a cache utilization ratio, and a number of requests each waiting for an executing turn, and

the setting unit changes said amount of the requests to be sent to the new added server based upon the acquired performance information of the cache memory.